

**BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS
SECRETARY'S
ACTION AGENDA
October 29, 2026**



SUPPLEMENTAL

*Contact: John Brennan 410-767-3640
john.brennan@maryland.gov*

**28. MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF DISABILITIES
*General Admission***

Recommendation: That the Board of Public Works create one position

Authority: Section 7-236, State Finance and Procurement Article, and Section 28 of Chapter 4 of 2026 (Budget Bill for FY 2027)

Amount: \$195,260

Fund Sources: 100% General Funds

Appropriation Code: D12A02.01

Remarks: Section 28 of Chapter 4 of 2026 (Budget Bill for FY 2027) authorizes the Board of Public Works to create no more than 100 positions in excess of the total number of authorized State positions on July 1, 2026, within the Executive Branch. The following new positions are requested to be created:

Regular Positions to be Created

	FTE	Position Title	Class Code	Grade/Step	Salary and Fringe
	<i>1.0</i>	<i>Principal Counsel</i>	<i>5626</i>	<i>STD 26/26</i>	<i>\$195,260</i>
Total	1.0				<i>\$195,260</i>

Maryland Department of Disabilities, in coordination with the Office of Attorney General, requests one Principal Counsel. Chapter 90 Senate Bill 22 titled Department of Disabilities – Housing Programs and Affiliated Foundations Establishment authorizes the creation of an affiliated foundation, effective on October 1, 2026. Prior to the launch, the Principal Counsel is required to draft governance structures, articles of incorporation and operational guidelines. The Maryland Department of Disabilities supports the program, but lacks a position resource or the attached budget capacity for an additional position. This is due to recent statutory expansion and complex federal regulatory requirements that emerged after the current budget was finalized.

BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS
SECRETARY'S
ACTION AGENDA
October 29, 2026



SUPPLEMENTAL

28. **MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF DISABILITIES** *(continued)*

Remarks (continued):

The Maryland General Assembly allocated funds to the Maryland Department of Disabilities in FY 2027 for its inaugural competitive grant program. The funds need to be expended before the end of the fiscal year. The Principal Counsel is required to

- Ensure competitive grant agreements, liability waivers, and oversight structures are drafted within the dedicated timeframe.
- Manage the Maryland Department of Disabilities legal operations
- Supervising Assistant Attorneys General assigned to the Maryland Department of Disabilities
- Ensure compliance with State and Federal laws.

More specifically the position will support the expansion and execution of core statutory programs codified including: the Technology Program, the Affordable Apartments Program, and the new Office of Disability Employment Advancement and Policy. Currently the Maryland Department of Disabilities has an assigned Assistance Attorney General that provides legal counsel, but they provide legal counsel to multiple State agencies. As the Maryland Department of Disabilities' expands to include the new competitive grant program, the affiliated foundation and expanded technology programs a dedicated legal counsel within the Maryland Department of Disabilities will alleviate the strain of the increasing workload.

DBM Remarks: The Secretary of the Department of Budget and Management has certified that funding will be added for the new Principal Counsel position through the FY 2028 budget process. If the Board approves this request, one position will have been approved within the Rule of 100 in FY 2027.

BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS

THIS ITEM WAS:

APPROVED

DISAPPROVED

DEFERRED

WITHDRAWN

WITH DISCUSSION

WITHOUT DISCUSSION